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U.S. War Finance Division

A campaign to organize
war bond saving clubs...

[Washington]

[1944]

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THEY ALSO SERVE WHO SAVE —

Serve Your Country by Buying War Bonds

A Campaign

to Organize

War Bond Saving Clubs

Among Negroes

308

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Box 684

S P O N S O R E D B Y

The National Negro Business League, in cooperation with other National Negro organizations, after advising with the Inter-Racial Section of the War Finance Division of the United States Treasury Department.

THEY ALSO SERVE WHO SAVE —

Serve Your Country by Saving War Bonds



WAR BOND SAVING CLUBS

National Organizing Committee

Dr. J. E. Walker, National Chairman
President of the National Negro Business League,
Memphis, Tenn.

VICE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President, National Council of Negro Women, Washington, D. C.
Booker T. Bradshaw, President, National Negro Insurance Association, Richmond, Va.
Bishop James A. Bray, President of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America.
T. M. Campbell, Regional Field Agent, Agricultural Extension Service, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
John W. Dobbs, President, International Conference of Grand Masters, Atlanta, Ga.
Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary, National Urban League, New York, N. Y.
Jesse Mitchell, President of the National Negro Bankers Association.
Miss Shellie Northcutt, Supervising Jeanes Teacher, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Fannie B. Peck, President, National Negro Housewives League, Detroit, Mich.
Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, President, National Negro Land Grant College Presidents' Association, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
P. L. Prattis, Executive Editor, The Pittsburgh Courier, who originally proposed the plan, Pittsburgh, Pa.
C. A. Scott, Vice President, Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, Atlanta, Ga.
Jesse O. Thomas, American Red Cross, Washington, D. C.
J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler, I. B. P. O. E., Washington, D. C.

SECRETARY

Albon L. Holsey, Executive Secretary, National Negro Business League, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

TREASURER

J. B. Blayton, Treasurer, National Negro Business League Vice President, Citizens Trust Company, Atlanta, Ga.
Claude A. Barnett, Publicity Director, Chicago, Ill.

WAR BONDS

★ Financial experts say that United States War Bonds are the safest investment in the world today. What do they mean by "investment"? Simply a good use for your money, where it is well protected for you and doing valuable work for which you are paid a reasonable return. That is what your Government is offering you when it asks you to buy War Bonds.

The purpose of this circular is to show you a practical way not only to buy War Bonds but also to hold onto them—to **save** them. Today your money is needed by your country in its fight for freedom; after the war it will be needed by you for various purposes: education, business, travel, better living. The Bonds which you save become more valuable every year. The Bonds which you cash before the end of the war turn loose dangerous dollars to interfere with the national war effort. Holding your War Bonds is just as important and patriotic as buying them.

DON'T FORGET THAT—

When you buy War Bonds, you help to put the best possible weapons into the hands of our fighting men—when you save War Bonds, you help to protect the homes and the jobs to which our fighting men will come back.

BUY WAR BONDS AND KEEP 'EM

★

GENERAL PLAN FOR War Bond Saving Clubs

I. General Objective of Saving Clubs.

1. The primary objective is the promotion of the purchase and holding of War Bonds by as many persons as possible.
2. This main objective embodies a three-fold purpose:
 - a. Financing the war;
 - b. Combating inflation;
 - c. Building up, during a period of high earnings, a reserve of savings against the post-war readjustment.
3. The immediate objective of such clubs is to encourage members to exercise thrift by arousing a cooperative and competitive spirit among the members of each club and between the various clubs established.
4. These clubs may also have an additional objective of providing a meeting place for the discussion of war topics, Government finance, economic subjects. There is no reason why War Bond Saving Clubs may not be developed into highly interesting and valuable bodies. Such clubs may sponsor War Bond rallies, Buy-a-Jeep campaigns, and the like.
5. Another objective of the club may be to provide safekeeping facilities for the War Bonds purchased by members of the club.

Strike a Blow for Liberty with a Bond Club

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II. Club Organization.

1. It is important that, in all but exceptional cases, War Bond Saving Clubs shall be given permanence and stability by being closely affiliated with existing organizations commanding the confidence of substantial numbers of members.
2. For this reason the National Negro Business League has undertaken to sponsor the War Bond Saving Club program and to form a National Organizing Committee for War Bond Saving Clubs, of which its president shall be national chairman and the chief officers of various other well-established national associations shall be national vice chairmen.
3. The National Organizing Committee shall select as its secretary a person, preferably the secretary of a national organization participating in this program, who is in a position to keep a set of simple records as required by items II-8e and f, hereafter. It shall select as its treasurer the treasurer of the National Negro Business League. The League undertakes to bear any expense incurred by this committee.
4. The national chairman shall appoint a State representative in each State in which Saving Clubs are formed. In this connection, it is suggested that the national chairman shall seek the advice of Associate Chairmen and/or Deputy Managers of State War Finance Committees, in order that the State representatives chosen may fit into the general War Bond program in operation in the several States.

**Prove that You're Looking Ahead—
JOIN A BOND CLUB**

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5. A War Bond Saving Club shall have a membership of from 10 to 100 persons. The time and place of meetings shall be locally determined.
 6. Each member shall undertake to purchase in his own name and deposit with the club through its treasurer and/or its secretary at least one \$25 bond each month; or, if special bylaws of the individual club permit, one \$25 bond every 2 months.
 7. Each club shall have a president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
 8.
 - a. The **treasurer** shall issue a receipt, countersigned by the secretary, to each member for each bond deposited with the club. The treasurer shall then deposit the bond or bonds in a repository which is used exclusively for that purpose.
 - b. The **secretary** shall keep an accurate record of each bond purchased by each member and deposited with the club. This record shall include the name of the purchaser, serial number and denomination of bond. Any member, upon surrender of his receipt to the secretary, may at any time withdraw his bond or bonds from the club.
 - c. The secretary shall also prepare in triplicate a monthly report stating the total membership of the club, total number of bonds deposited with the club and total amount of bonds on hand, computed at maturity value. One copy of this report shall be sent to the State representative, one copy

**To Give Our Boys the Best Weapons—
BUY WAR BONDS**

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- ★
- d. The secretary shall be sole custodian of the records of a War Bond Saving Club. Such records are to be kept in strictest confidence and made available only to the officers of the club. This, however, does not prevent each member obtaining from the secretary his personal record. This caution will guard against exploitation by solicitors for investment.
 - e. Each State representative shall file in duplicate a monthly report with the national chairman, giving the number of clubs operating in his State, total membership and total amount of bonds deposited, computed at maturity value.
 - f. The national chairman shall file with the Inter-Racial Section of the War Finance Division, United States Treasury Department, a copy of each report from his State representatives, with such other comments as will show the progress of the clubs in the several States.

III. Selection of Officers.

It is very important that the leadership in these club projects shall be taken by responsible persons with real qualities of leadership. The service rendered to the national war effort by eager energetic officers of War Bond Saving Clubs will constitute a really important war work for such persons, of which they can be truly proud. It is there-

**To Keep the Cost of Living Down—
BUY WAR BONDS**

fore important that the officers of such clubs shall be carefully selected, as a considerable amount of financial responsibility is required.

IV. Safekeeping Service to Members.

A difficult problem for many people is that of protecting their holdings of War Bonds. Comparatively few people have safe deposit boxes, and there are many War Bond purchasers who do not even keep an adequate record of the Bonds which have been issued in their names. A War Bond Saving Club will very often be able to do a real service to its members by renting a safe deposit box and also by recording in its club records the serial numbers, issue dates, maturity dates, names of co-owners or beneficiaries and other important facts about the ownership of War Bonds.

V. Thrift Clubs.

1. In the preceding plan for developing War Bond Saving Clubs, in subsection 6 of section II, a standard of War Bond purchases is set at one \$25 Bond each month (purchase price \$18.75). It is possible that in some cases, organizations working with the National Negro Business League may find that this program is financially beyond the reach of their members. For such organizations we recommend the formation of "Thrift Clubs," organized to help their members buy War Bonds on a slower schedule. These Thrift Clubs should operate through the systematic purchase of War Savings Stamps, with definite schedules of purchase, proper provision for the conversion of Stamps

For Better Education for That Child—
BUY WAR BONDS

into War Bonds, and reasonable arrangement for safeguarding both the Stamps and Bonds purchased by members.

2. Existing organizations undertaking to sponsor Thrift Clubs should take action to appropriate monies from their own treasuries for the purchase of a reasonable supply of War Savings Stamps with their own funds. As War Savings Stamps are the equivalent of cash and may be reconverted into cash at any post office without formality, any organization sponsoring a Thrift Club will not assume any real financial burden by buying Stamps and holding them for purchase by members of the Thrift Club.
3. Each Thrift Club member should enter into a definite commitment to buy a specified amount of War Savings Stamps every week. These purchases should be made through the secretary and the treasurer of the Thrift Club. The treasurer, who should also be the treasurer of the parent organization, will take the money and deliver the Stamps. The secretary will see that the member places the Stamps in his Stamp album and will make a record of the purchase in a record book kept for that purpose. When the secretary's record shows that the member has bought enough Stamps to represent the cost of a War Bond he shall help the member to exchange his Stamps for a Bond and shall record the date, denomination, serial number of the Bond and its ownership (with name of co-owner or beneficiary, if any) in his record book. If safekeeping arrangements have been made, the treasurer

For a Better Home After the War—
BUY WAR BONDS

will then take possession of the Bond and give the member a receipt for same.

4. Members of War Bond Saving Clubs should give consideration to the formation of Thrift Clubs as auxiliaries, to be operated, for example, for the convenience of wives or children of members. There is no reason why a War Bond Saving Club, whose members are able to buy at least one Bond a month, should not, through a Thrift Club auxiliary, open up a junior membership for persons who wish to take part in the programs and activities of the Club but whose earnings or financial status do not permit them to undertake the purchase of one Bond a month.

VI. Other Activities of Clubs.

War Bond Saving Clubs have great possibilities for special activities connected with the national war effort. They may, for instance, organize:

1. War Bond Rallies or Parades.

The War Finance Committee in the State, county or city can help get speakers and suggest how to organize an effective program. The Inter-Racial Section of the War Finance Division in Washington will also be glad to help.

2. Special Campaigns—Buy-a-Jeep, Buy-a-Bomber, etc.

Beside the regular purchases of War Bonds, the members of one or more Saving Clubs in a community may find it interesting to promote a campaign with the special objective of financing some particular piece of war material, in which members,

and other persons, may join. In planning such a campaign, consult Local or National War Finance officials.

3. Discussion Groups.

The Inter-Racial Section of the War Finance Division at Washington is prepared to supply programs of discussion subjects on the progress of the war, historic background, economic problems, foreign policy, etc. Such programs will help to make the meetings of the club interesting and valuable to the members.

4. Meetings to celebrate attainment of definite goals.

The Treasury Department is glad to recognize a good job well done and will help Saving Clubs to make proper recognition thereof.

VII. Value of Organization and Complete Records.

The National Negro Business League regards it as highly desirable that a more complete record be assembled to demonstrate how loyally and generously the Negro population has Backed the Attack by buying War Bonds. It has been difficult to get together figures to prove how many millions of dollars have been invested in War Bonds by Negroes. The organization of a large number of War Bond Saving Clubs will help to prove this point. If the League can supply the Treasury Department with such records it will be most helpful in improving the recognized economic standing of the Negro throughout the country. Lively competition between War Bond Saving Clubs and extra good records on the part of individual clubs or their members will help the record and the cause of national unity.

**YOUR WAR BONDS ARE
A STAKE IN THE FUTURE**

INSURE YOUR FUTURE—JOIN A BOND CLUB



*“WE cannot fight this war,
we cannot exert our
maximum effort, on a spend-
as-usual basis. We cannot
have all we want if our soldiers
and sailors are to have all they
need. . . . Every dime and
dollar not vitally needed for
absolute necessities should go
into War Bonds and Stamps,
to add to the striking power of
our armed forces.”*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

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